

New finds of *Microphon exiguus* (Seymouriamorpha, Kotlassiidae) in the Severodvinian beds of the Sukhona River Basin, Russia

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Abstract

© 2014, Pleiades Publishing, Ltd. New data on the morphology and ontogeny of the Permian kotlassiid *Microphon exiguus* Ivachnenko, 1983 (Tetrapoda, Seymouriamorpha), based on the collection from the Ust'e Strel'ny locality (Russia, Vologda Region; Severodvinian Regional Stage), are reported. At the definitive stage, *M. exiguus* retains the larval skull habitus (short preorbital region, a few marginal teeth, widely open posttemporal fenestra) and seismosensory grooves. These features, along with the reduced nasolacrimal duct, are indicative of an important role of pedomorphosis in the evolution of Severodvinian kotlassiids and, in particular, the genus *Microphon*, which should be regarded as a neotenic, permanently aquatic Permian amphibian.

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Keywords

cranial morphology, Kotlassiidae, *Microphon*, Russia, Seymouriamorpha, Upper Permian